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control, but also by the political conditions which prevail. National boundaries cannot be ignored without, to some extent, losing sight of the interaction which takes place between man and his environment." Undoubtedly, this belief prompted him to start with the political units before proceeding to set the limits of the so-called natural regions.

The book contains no large number of new instances of interactions between man and his environment, nor can it be said that it contributes any considerable number of new concepts within the field of economic geography. It does contain, however, a large mass of accurate, up-to-date, concrete data of interest to students of economic geography. The book should find its chief mission as a work of reference. In any event, it is not particularly well adapted for use as a textbook in this country, however valuable it might be regarded by some for such a purpose in the British Isles or on the Continent. This opinion is held in part, at least, because of the following distribution of space. The sections on the United States occupy only 36 pages, and those on Canada 23 pages; the whole continent of North America is treated in 84 pages. Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Australasia occupy, respectively, 163, 100, 59, 43 and 33 pages. Moreover, values, such as those for foreign trade, are expressed in pounds sterling rather than in dollars. This is as might be expected, inasmuch as the book originally appeared in England, and the author is a lecturer in geography in the University of Manchester.

There are eighteen maps of which eleven illustrate natural regions, while the remainder are rainfall maps reproduced with the permission of the Oxford University Press. At the end of the volume there is a bibliography including the more important works consulted by Mr. McFarlane in preparing his book.

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L'Evoluzione Agricola nel Secolo XVIII e le Cause Economiche dei Moti del 1792-98 in Piemonte. By GIUSEPPE PRATO.

Memorie della Reale Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, serie II, tom. LX. (Torino: Vincenzo Bona. 1909. Pp. 106.)

Il Problema del Combustibile nel Periodo Pre-Rivoluzionario come Fattore della Distribuzione Topografica delle Industrie. By GIUSEPPE PRATO. Memorie della Reale

Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, serie II, tom. LXII.
(Torino: Vincenzo Bona. 1912. Pp. 116.)

Un Capitolo della Vita di Giovanni Law (da Documenti inediti).

By GIUSEPPE PRATO. Memorie della Reale Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, serie II, tom. LXIV. (Torino: Libreria Fratelli Bocca. 1914. Pp. 31.)

La Teoria e la Practica della Carta-Moneta Prima degli Assegnati Rivoluzionari. By GIUSEPPE PRATO. Memorie della Reale Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, serie II, tom. LXV. (Torina: Libreria Fratelli Bocca. 1915. Pp. 42.)

L'Espansione Commerciale Inglese nel Primo Settecento in una Relazione di un Inviato Sabaudo. By GIUSEPPE PRATO. Miscellanea di Studi Storici in Onore di A. Manno. (Torino: Officiana Poligrafica Editrice Subalpina "Opes." 1911. Pp. 29.)

These studies of Signor Prato are worthy contributions to scholarship. They are based entirely upon documentary researches and discoveries in the Turin archives, and are backed by a thorough knowledge of the existing literature. The introductions in which setting is given against the background of work already done are brilliant. In especial measure Prato keeps the open and critically judicial mind, particularly when dealing with John Law about whom polemic has been so bitter. Moreover, he is constantly on the alert for anything which may point out trends and tendencies in the development of thought on economic matters, and he endeavors to assign to his subjects not only their proper place in Piedmontese history, but to relate them to the general movement of European development.

In the first essay Prato shows how the organization of agriculture in the Piedmont was changed, beginning about 1750, by the taking up of the lands of the country by a capitalist class. In the displacement of the old cultivators, their reduction to the ranks of wage workers, their submission to rack-rents which resulted, together with the very high prices and dearth at the end of the century, Prato finds the conditions which favored the spread of the revolutionary movement, rather than in a general low standard of life and high feudal exactions.

The second study necessitates a description of the state and progress of Piedmontese industries, which makes it of exceptional value to the student of the problem of industrial organization in the eighteenth century. Owing to the limited area of the

country and the complete records, the Piedmont offers an admirable opportunity to study the forest economy of a typical European state before the discovery of coal. The importance of the subject appears from the conclusions that the wood-fuel supply influenced the development of industry, retarding it by its scarcity, and that in the localization of industry it was a more important factor in the Piedmont than the proximity of supplies of other materials or the closeness of markets.

In his paper on John Law, Prato treats of Law's visit to the court of Victor Amadeus II at Turin, adding much to Domenico Perrero's description of the incident. In his Turin projects, Law evidenced the most modern and correct principles of banking, which he had evolved and was eager to practice. After this scientific vindication of Law, Prato rather gratuitously attempts to rehabilitate him morally and to explain his departure from true banking principles in Paris. This lapse was not due to moral turpitude, in Prato's opinion, but had a psychological explanation. There were really two Laws, one imbued with the idea of freedom from a study of Dutch and English institutions, the other born from sudden contact with the conception of the absolute State, representing the general good, personified by the king in France. In the financial chaos and circumstances of the time, Law discarded his untried theories acting in all good faith with a desire quickly to achieve the general good.

In the fourth pamphlet named, Prato has published, with a brief introduction, a pamphlet of Giovan Battista Vasco, in which Vasco made the first attempt to analyze clearly the kinds of paper money, and to clear up the confusion of terms which had hitherto been general.

The fifth pamphlet is the publication, with a short introduction, of the *Relazione* of Rovero di Cortanze, Piedmontese envoy to England, written in 1726, on the commerce of Great Britain. The document is of the highest value, since it adds another to the very few contemporary descriptions of English commerce and trade in the eighteenth century. Incidentally, much information is given about the commerce of the rest of Europe. Cortanze was especially interested in the reasons for English industrial expansion, which had already begun, and he was anxious that Italian states should imitate her methods to increase their own prosperity.

FREDERICK C. DIETZ.